

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

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DATE: August 6, 1992

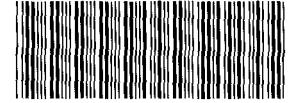
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REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EH-25

4D117

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination for Transplanting
Sharptailed Grouse to the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP)

TO: Richard A. Claytor
Assistant Secretary
for Defense Programs



000020791

We have reviewed your July 9, 1992, memorandum requesting a determination on the level of NEPA documentation required for DOE's proposal for Transplanting Sharptailed Grouse to RFP. We have considered the accompanying Action Description Memorandum (ADM) and your recommendation that an Environmental Assessment (EA) be prepared.

The proposed action is to transplant approximately 40-50 plains sharptailed grouse at RFP over a two-year period. The action is being requested by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which has identified RFP as one of several areas where this state endangered grouse might be able to survive. Currently, there are less than 200 sharptailed grouse within the state. In order that DOE's present and future activities not be hindered, DOE would negotiate an agreement with Colorado to outline the responsibilities derived from transplanting the grouse to RFP.

The proposed action is not encompassed within the categories of Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Regulations (57 FR 15122, April 24, 1992) and it is unclear whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required. Therefore, based on my staff's review and analysis, and after consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that an EA should be prepared as the basis for a determination of the need for an EIS.

Be advised that the host state is to be notified of this NEPA determination as required by the DOE NEPA Regulations and DOE Order 5440.1D. If you have any questions regarding this determination or need guidance regarding the preparation of the EA, please contact Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight, at 586-4600.

Paul L. Ziemer
for Paul L. Ziemer, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

cc: Timothy D. Pflaum
DP NEPA Compliance Officer

Patricia Powell
RF NEPA Compliance Officer

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